

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
Governor

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
Lt. Governor



**SHARON HURD**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**DEXTER KISHIDA**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512  
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD**  
**CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2024**  
**1:00 PM**  
**CONFERENCE ROOM 224**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2414**  
**RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS**

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 2414. This bill establishes an 11-member Sustainable Food Systems Working Group (Working Group) that is to develop an Interagency Food Systems Plan (Plan) that is linked to goals established by the United Nations. The Plan will address seven broad areas and once implemented, will result in a more sustainable, resilient local food economy that enhances and sustains the environmental, economic, and social health of the community.

The Working Group is administratively attached to the Department of Agriculture (HDOA). This measure establishes an unspecified number of sustainability specialist positions with HDOA and appropriates funds for the same. There is an additional appropriation to HDOA to support the establishment and operation of the Working Group and includes potential purchase of services for a fee. The Plan and its recommendations for the implementation of the Plan are to be submitted to the 2025 Legislature. The Department supports and offers comments for amendments to this measure.



The Working Group is to be co-chaired by the HDOA Chair and the Director of the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, and a single representative from each house of the State Legislature as selected by the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate, respectively. The selection of a single person with knowledge from each of the seven broad areas are to be made by the two legislative representatives (Page 2, lines 15-20).

HDOA recommends including a requirement to have agricultural operators represented in the 11-member Working Group and requests legislative guidance in defining and describing how farmers, ranchers and producers will be at the heart of the Plan to achieve a more sustainable food system. The Department appreciates that the discussions will add content to the Hawaii Farm Bill currently in development.

1. Food as a human right and health food for all;
2. Social equity and food justice;
3. Food system resilience;
4. Agriculture and food system sustainability;
5. Food at the center of a circular economy;
6. Sustainable education, workforce development, and fair labor; and
7. Good food governance

The HDOA is cautiously optimistic that the effort of the Working Group will result in a measurable, science-based, and functional Plan that will promote the State's highest priorities of increasing the economic viability of existing agricultural operations and assist in the establishment of new ones in direct support of increasing local food self-sufficiency and exports.

The HDOA suggests that a requirement for the sustainability specialist positions in the HDOA to assist in the development of the Plan be well-versed in Hawaii agriculture at the farm and ranch level and be specialists in sustainability.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our testimony.



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## ‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

### Legislative Testimony

### Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment  
Friday, February 2, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.

By

Anna Wieczorek, Interim Dean  
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources

And

Michael Bruno, Provost  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

#### SB 2414 – RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 2414 which establishes the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group within the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA). The purpose of this working group is to develop an interagency food systems plan linked to the United Nations sustainable development goals for a more sustainable, resilient local food economy that enhances and sustains the environmental, economic, and social health of our community.

A sustainable food system is defined as one that provides sufficient food to meet current food needs while maintaining healthy ecosystems that support continuous food production to generations to come. To ensure equitable access to nutritional food that is produced with minimal impact on the environment, Hawai'i needs to encourage the development of sustainable food systems. Our food systems need to serve our population's health, the environmental health of our land, and the economic health of our food and agricultural sector. Hawai'i needs to be proactive in making locally produced food widely available to our population. Similar to other parts of the world, Hawai'i is especially vulnerable to natural and human disasters that may have a negative impact on our own food security. Hence, the establishment of a working group focused on making our local food production more sustainable is one we certainly support and participate as a member.

In summary, University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources supports SB 2414 and defers to HDOA regarding the resources for the development of the interagency food systems plan and administration support.

Furthermore, we support SB 2414 provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our Board of Regents Approved Budget. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on the measure.

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
Governor

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
Lt. Governor



**WENDY L. GADY**  
Executive Director

STATE OF HAWAII  
**AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**  
235 S. Beretania Street, Suite 205  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
Phone: (808) 586-0186 Fax: (808) 586-0189

**TESTIMONY OF WENDY L. GADY  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

Friday, February 2, 2024  
1:00 p.m.

Conference Room 224  
SENATE BILL NO. 2414  
RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

Chairperson Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 2414 relating to sustainable food systems, which establishes the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group comprised of members from the Hawaii Department of Agriculture, Hawaii Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, and Hawaii State Legislature.

The Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) believes establishing this working group will encourage collaboration amongst the departments and Legislature to develop a strategic vision for agriculture, and work towards the goal of doubling our local food production by 2030, which in turn will promote food resiliency and foster economic development throughout the state.

We support this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in our Executive Budget. Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

**SB-2414**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 2:45:22 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Colehour Bondera	Testifying for Kanalani Ohana Farm	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee Members:

Please accept our strong support for SB2414. Sincere thanks to Senetor Gabbard for the introdcution of the legislation, which deserves serious attention.

Hawaii needs to move forward with policies in place in order to support local food prodcuton and distribution. Small-scale farmers, cannot readily pursue processing and exporting of their production. However there is plenty of need for healthy, local produce, and we must support.

As the holder of two Masters' degrees from the University of California at Davis, with emphasis on agriculture education and direct marketing by farmers, I know that it requires a lot to make for changes in systems. Lets' work together to discuss how to proceed and have the HDOA foster a healthy process to identify means for sustainable food system for Hawaii.

This means that aspects of production, distribution and education about produce will all require attention. The local demand must increase and the local supplies must be accessible by consumers (which we all are, by the way). Together we can and should have a healthy system where residents and visitors can enjoy Hawaii for what it has long been -- a place of abundance who can and does produce enough for all. Together we can achieve this basic goal.

Let us not block this action because of appropriations. If postponed because of poor budget management, please require action once funds are allocated, so this much needed effort does not have to start over...

Sincerely,

Colehour Bondera

KANALANI OHANA FARM

colemel2@gmail.com

**SB-2414**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 6:09:53 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
laurel brier	Testifying for Kauai Climate Action Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need a coordinated food systems **plan** led by key stakeholders across our food system which can connect local food producers, consumers, state institutionals and community anti-hunger efforts. This is how we fight the climate crisis, food insecurity, improve the local economy and the health of our residents. Strong support for SB2414.



1050 Bishop St. PMB 235 | Honolulu, HI 96813  
P: 808-533-1292 | e: info@hawaiiifood.com

#### **Executive Officers**

**Gary Okimoto**, Safeway Hawaii, *Chair*  
**Maile Miyashiro**, C&S Wholesale Grocer, *Vice Chair*  
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**Lauren Zirbel**, HFIA, *Executive Director*  
**Paul Kosasa**, ABC Stores, *Advisor*  
**Derek Kurisu**, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*  
**Toby Taniguchi**, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*  
**Joe Carter**, Coca-Cola Bottling of Hawaii, *Advisor*  
**Eddie Asato**, Pint Size Hawaii, *Immediate Past Chair*

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TO: Committee on Agriculture and Environment

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION  
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: February 2, 2024  
TIME: 1pm  
PLACE: Room 224

RE: SB2414 Relating to Sustainable Food Systems

Position: Support

The Hawaii Food Industry Association is comprised of two hundred member companies representing retailers, suppliers, producers, manufacturers and distributors of food and beverage related products in the State of Hawaii.

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committee,

HFIA is in support of this measure and the intent of the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group. We also understand the need to keep the group at a reasonable size in order to maximize its ability to take action.

We strongly believe that the effectiveness of the working group will be hindered without representation from our state's food industry. While HFIA members and staff have expertise that would qualify us to fill one of the positions currently listed in the group, we believe that having specific industry representation is important enough to warrant an amendment that would require a group member be from Hawaii's food industry, specifically HFIA.

Our mission aligns with purpose of the working group - a robust, sustainable, and resilient food supply chain. We have high level industry knowledge and expertise to contribute to this group and we are glad to participate. It's also important to note that by including HFIA, the working group would gain access to a network of local retailers and suppliers, amplifying the impact of any initiatives the group takes.

We thank the Committee for considering our requested change, and for the opportunity to testify.



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759  
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921  
e-mail [info@hfbf.org](mailto:info@hfbf.org); [www.hfbf.org](http://www.hfbf.org)

February 1, 2024

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

**TESTIMONY ON SB 2414**  
RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference  
1:00 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Richards, and Members of the Committees:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawai'i's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate, and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

**The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports SB 2358**, which establishes the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group within the Department of Agriculture, requires the working group to submit the Interagency Food Systems Plan, any recommendations for implementing the plan, and any proposed legislation to the legislature, and appropriates funds to establish the working group and develop the plan.

The impacts of the COVID pandemic have highlighted the need to strengthen Hawai'i's food system to ensure greater resilience, food security, human health, and economic diversity and stability.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our comments and thank you for your continued support of Hawai'i's agricultural community.



**Officers**

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Fawn Helekahi-Burns  
Hana, Maui

Mason Scharer  
Haleakala, Maui

Kaiea Medeiros  
Mauna Kahalawai,  
Maui

Kaipo Kekona  
Lahaina, Maui

Rufina Kaauwai  
Molokai

Negus Manna  
Lāna'i

India Clark  
North Shore, O'ahu

Christian Zuckerman  
Wai'anae, O'ahu

Ted Radovich  
Waimanalo, O'ahu

Vincent Kimura  
Honolulu, O'ahu

Natalie Urminska  
Kauai

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Senate Agriculture and Environment Committee,

The Hawaii Farmers Union United (HFUU) is a 501(c)(5) agricultural advocacy nonprofit representing a network of over 2,500 family farmers and their supporters across the Hawaiian Islands. **HFUU supports SB2414.**

The establishment of the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group is vital, as it encompasses a range of stakeholders committed to developing an interagency food systems plan. This plan aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, focusing on critical aspects such as green job creation, land stewardship, food security, and climate change resilience, which are crucial for the growth and sustainability of Hawaii's agriculture.

We especially commend the bill's emphasis on sustainable agriculture, education, workforce development, and fair labor in the food and agriculture sectors. These provisions will not only support our farmers economically by creating new markets for locally produced foods but also ensure the resilience of Hawaii's food systems.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kaipo Kekona, President HFUU/HFUF

**SB-2414**

Submitted on: 2/1/2024 8:52:03 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dr Jana Bogs	Testifying for Beyond Organic Consulting, Inc.	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB2414. Too many families in Hawai'i are facing food insecurity, our farmers struggle to access affordable land and water, and climate change poses threats to our local food production. However, a more resilient food system can address these various challenges but only if we take a coordinated approach.

We can meet our goals of increasing local food production while also diversifying our local economy. Because our food system is so broad and complex, a plan will be needed to identify how the various sectors of our food system can work together to increase local food security.

A coordinated food systems plan led by key stakeholders across our food system can help connect the dots between local food producers, consumers, state institutional purchasing and community anti-hunger efforts. This work is critical to identify and advance solutions to fix our reliance on imports and to create a sustainable and equitable food economy.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Jana Bogs, PhD



**Senate Committee on Agriculture & Environment**

**Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: SB2414**

Wednesday, February 2nd, 2024 1 p.m. Conference Room 224

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee,

We support SB2414 which establishes the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group and establishes an unspecified number of positions within the Department of Agriculture.

Too many families in Hawai'i are facing food insecurity, our farmers struggle to access affordable land and water, and climate change poses threats to our local food production. However, a more resilient food system can address these various challenges but only if we take a coordinated approach.

We can meet our goals of increasing local food production while also diversifying our local economy. Because our food system is so broad and complex, a plan will be needed to identify how the various sectors of our food system can work together to increase local food security.

A coordinated food systems plan led by key stakeholders across our food system can help connect the dots between local food producers, consumers, state institutional purchasing and community anti-hunger efforts. This work is critical to identify and advance solutions to fix our reliance on imports and to create a sustainable and equitable food economy.

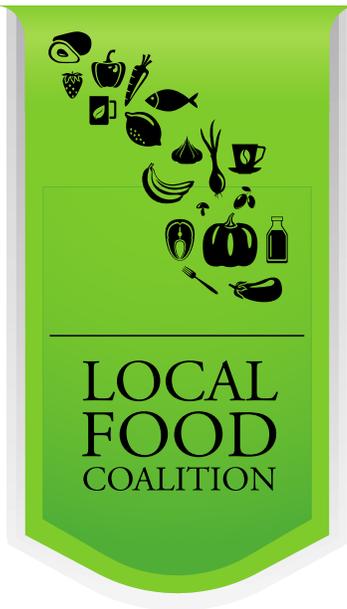
Please support SB2414 to create a sustainable food systems working plan for Hawai'i.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick', written in a cursive style.

Anne Frederick  
Executive Director



Hawai'i Aquaculture & Aquaponics Association  
Hawai'i Cattlemen's Council  
Hawai'i Farm Bureau Federation  
Hawai'i Farmers' Union United  
Hawai'i Food Industry Association  
Hawai'i Food Manufacturers Association  
Kohala Center  
Land Use Research Foundation of Hawai'i  
Maui Farm to School Network (Maui F2SN)  
Ulupono Initiative  
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources - University of Hawai'i at Manoa

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT  
Friday, February 2, 2024 – 1:00 p.m. – Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

**SB 2414 – RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS  
SUPPORTS THE INTENT**

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee:

The Local Food Coalition **SUPPORTS THE INTENT** of SB 2414, which establishes a Sustainable Food Systems Working Group, requires a report to the Legislature before the Regular Session of 2025, and appropriates funds for an unspecified number of positions in the Department of Agriculture to establish and operate the working group.

The pandemic, supply chain, and inflation highlighted the need to increase Hawaii's food self-sufficiency and reduce our reliance on imports. Developing an interagency food systems plan now can help the state fulfill its goal of increasing local food production and support our local agriculture industry.

However, the composition of the group is too vague and support the composition of the working group in [HB308](#), [HD1](#), [SD2](#) from the 2024 session and doubling the number of farmers and producers.

The Local Food Coalition is an organization comprised of farmers, ranchers, livestock producers, investors and other organizations working to provide Hawaii's food supply.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony supporting the intent of SB 2414.



# Food+ Policy Internship 2024

[food@purplemaia.org](mailto:food@purplemaia.org)

February 1, 2024

Subject: *SB2414, Relating to Sustainable Food Systems*

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Senate Agriculture and Environment Committee,

We are in strong support of SB2414. Allow me to introduce Wahliya Kessell-Fay, a current intern of our program and a devoted student enrolled in the Sustainable Community Food Systems program at UH-West O'ahu, pursuing a dual major in political science. More importantly, she is an active and committed member of her community. Over the past six years, Wahliya has immersed herself in full-time farming, community engagement, and education.

It is necessary for strategic planning to achieve the goal of a 30% increase in food production by 2050. Despite the meager 0.3% allocation of the state budget to the agricultural industry in Hawai'i, Wahliya consciously chose the path of farming, driven by a desire to contribute to solutions for the challenges faced by local farmers and communities.

Having experienced homelessness and food insecurity as a child serves as a powerful motivator for Wahliya, propelling her to continue planting fresh food for the communities. Issues such as food insecurity, health disparities, environmental degradation, economic disadvantage, and the lack of sustainability and support for farmers are the driving forces behind her advocacy for this crucial bill.

SB2414 not only charts the course for increased food production and sustainability but also presents an opportunity for young farmers like herself to play a significant role. The establishment of a sustainable working group creates job opportunities, enticing the involvement of passionate young farmers in a movement designed to benefit everyone.

Mahalo,  
Kaitlyn & the Food+ Policy Team  
#fixourfoodsystem

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**The Food+ Policy internship** develops student advocates who learn work skills while increasing civic engagement to become emerging leaders. We focus on good food systems policy because we see the importance and potential of the food system in combating climate change and increasing the health, equity, and resiliency of Hawai'i communities.

In 2024, the cohort of interns are undergrads and graduate students from throughout the UH System. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, public health, nutrition, and Hawaiian culture.



# Food+ Policy Internship 2024

[food@purplemaia.org](mailto:food@purplemaia.org)

February, 1 2024

Subject: *S.B.2414, Relating to Sustainable Food Systems*

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Senate Agriculture and Environment Committee,

The Hawaii Food+ Policy is in full support of SB 2414. Our Intern Nanea Kelii is an organic farmer and current student at UH West Oahu pursuing the Sustainable community Food Systems program. Currently, the State of Hawaii is in dire need of a food systems plan to address and mitigate any unwanted hiccups in Hawaii's vulnerable food chain. She hopes the creation of an expert-lead, sustainable food systems working group can help to pursue the goal of not just creating a food systems charter but also a more robust system of local food producers.

The basic need of sustenance is continuing to be more financially burdening with each year. Knowing her family could potentially starve because Hawaii has no follow-up or long-term plan for food system problems disturbs me greatly.

Mahalo,  
Hawaii Food+ Plus Policy

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**The Food+ Policy internship** develops student advocates who learn work skills while increasing civic engagement to become emerging leaders. We focus on good food systems policy because we see the importance and potential of the food system in combating climate change and increasing the health, equity, and resiliency of Hawai'i communities.

In 2024, the cohort of interns are undergrads and graduate students from throughout the UH System. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, public health, nutrition, and Hawaiian culture.

**SB-2414**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 5:45:13 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Steven Costa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB2414

**SB-2414**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 6:02:42 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Marilyn Mick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB2414. Too many families in Hawai'i are facing food insecurity, our farmers struggle to access affordable land and water, and climate change poses threats to our local food production. However, a more resilient food system can address these various challenges but only if we take a coordinated approach.

We can meet our goals of increasing local food production while also diversifying our local economy. Because our food system is so broad and complex, a plan will be needed to identify how the various sectors of our food system can work together to increase local food security.

A coordinated food systems plan led by key stakeholders across our food system can help connect the dots between local food producers, consumers, state institutional purchasing and community anti-hunger efforts. This work is critical to identify and advance solutions to fix our reliance on imports and to create a sustainable and equitable food economy.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Marilyn Mick, Honolulu

**SB-2414**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 6:11:50 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Carrie Brennan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB2414 so that here in Hawaii we can be less reliant on food imports and create a sustainable and equitable food economy.

Mahalo!

Carrie Brennan

**SB-2414**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 6:20:00 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Thomas Nooney	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support bill SB2414. We need to develop our own healthy , sustainable food sources here in Hawaii & depend less on food being shipped here. We have excellent conditions ere in Hawaii nei to do this!

Sincerely

Thomas Nooney

Kula, Maui, Hi.

**SB-2414**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 6:23:21 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lisa Lee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB2414. Too many families in Hawai'i are facing food insecurity, our farmers struggle to access affordable land and water, and climate change poses threats to our local food production. However, a more resilient food system can address these various challenges but only if we take a coordinated approach.

We can meet our goals of increasing local food production while also diversifying our local economy. Because our food system is so broad and complex, a plan will be needed to identify how the various sectors of our food system can work together to increase local food security.

A coordinated food systems plan led by key stakeholders across our food system can help connect the dots between local food producers, consumers, state institutional purchasing and community anti-hunger efforts. This work is critical to identify and advance solutions to fix our reliance on imports and to create a sustainable and equitable food economy.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Sincerely,

Lisa Lee

Honolulu

**SB-2414**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 6:49:11 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
KEALA FUNG	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB2414. Too many families in Hawai'i are facing food insecurity, our farmers struggle to access affordable land and water, and climate change poses threats to our local food production. However, a more resilient food system can address these various challenges but only if we take a coordinated approach.

We can meet our goals of increasing local food production while also diversifying our local economy. Because our food system is so broad and complex, a plan will be needed to identify how the various sectors of our food system can work together to increase local food security.

A coordinated food systems plan led by key stakeholders across our food system can help connect the dots between local food producers, consumers, state institutional purchasing and community anti-hunger efforts. This work is critical to identify and advance solutions to fix our reliance on imports and to create a sustainable and equitable food economy.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Keala Fung, Honolulu

**SB-2414**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 7:12:29 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lucie Schragger	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee,

Please support SB2414. Too many families in Hawai‘i are facing food insecurity, our farmers struggle to access affordable land and water, and climate change poses threats to our local food production. With 90% or more of our food being imported, these threats only increase the need for alternatives. A more resilient food system can address these various challenges but only if we take a coordinated approach.

We can meet our goals of increasing local food production while also diversifying our local economy. Because our food system is so broad and complex, a plan will be needed to identify how the various sectors of our food system can work together to increase local food security.

A coordinated food systems plan led by key stakeholders across our food system can help connect the dots between local food producers, consumers, state institutional purchasing, and community anti-hunger efforts. This work is critical to identify and advance solutions to fix our reliance on imports and to create a sustainable and equitable food economy.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Lucie Schragger, ‘Ewa

**SB-2414**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 7:20:18 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Greg and Pat Farstrup	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

we support this bill

**SB-2414**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:21:44 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mamiko Carroll	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Senator Richards, Senator DeCoite, Senator Rhoads, and Senator Awa,

I am writing in SUPPORT of SB2414, allocating funds to support the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group operations. This is an investment in our economy and food security.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of SB2414.

**SB-2414**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 7:48:56 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Georgia L Hoopes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong Support on SB2414

This bill supports food sustainability and cultural community. Helps people help themselves.

**SB-2414**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 9:05:38 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support HB2414. Too many families in Hawai'i are facing food insecurity, our farmers struggle to access affordable land and water, and climate change poses threats to our local food production. However, a more resilient food system can address these various challenges but only if we take a coordinated approach.

We can meet our goals of increasing local food production while also diversifying our local economy. Because our food system is so broad and complex, a plan will be needed to identify how the various sectors of our food system can work together to increase local food security.

A coordinated food systems plan led by key stakeholders across our food system can help connect the dots between local food producers, consumers, state institutional purchasing and community anti-hunger efforts. This work is critical to identify and advance solutions to fix our reliance on imports and to create a sustainable and equitable food economy.

Mahalo for your consideration!

**SB-2414**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 11:34:18 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Marlies Lee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this if it's not only talk, talk talk.

sometimes there is too much talk and no action and that's a waste of time and money

but, yes, lets grow all our food locally.

don't allow imports of fruit, veggies and meat that we can grow here.

**SB-2414**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 3:10:40 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sven Sorge	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB2414. Too many families in Hawai'i are facing food insecurity, our farmers struggle to access affordable land and water, and climate change poses threats to our local food production. However, a more resilient food system can address these various challenges but only if we take a coordinated approach.

We can meet our goals of increasing local food production while also diversifying our local economy. Because our food system is so broad and complex, a plan will be needed to identify how the various sectors of our food system can work together to increase local food security.

A coordinated food systems plan led by key stakeholders across our food system can help connect the dots between local food producers, consumers, state institutional purchasing and community anti-hunger efforts. This work is critical to identify and advance solutions to fix our reliance on imports and to create a sustainable and equitable food economy.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Sven Sorge

**SB-2414**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 6:20:15 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Noelle Lindenmann	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Ioha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB2414. Too many families in Hawai'i are facing food insecurity, our farmers struggle to access affordable land and water, and climate change poses threats to our local food production. However, a more resilient food system can address these various challenges but only if we take a coordinated approach.

We can meet our goals of increasing local food production while also diversifying our local economy. Because our food system is so broad and complex, a plan will be needed to identify how the various sectors of our food system can work together to increase local food security.

A coordinated food systems plan led by key stakeholders across our food system can help connect the dots between local food producers, consumers, state institutional purchasing and community anti-hunger efforts. This work is critical to identify and advance solutions to fix our reliance on imports and to create a sustainable and equitable food economy.

Our local food producers should be empowered to produce food for our islands.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Noelle Lindenmann, Kailua-Kona

**SB-2414**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 7:05:50 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Joan Lander	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai,

Please support SB2414. We need a plan to coordinate food production, storage and transportation if we are to efficiently make use of our agricultural lands and those who grow our food.

**SB-2414**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 7:55:13 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Maki Morinoue	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB2414. We must prepare for structural support at State level to address sustainability, food sovereignty, and climate resilience. We are far from this.

We can meet our goals of increasing local food production while also diversifying our local economy. Because our food system is so broad and complex, a plan will be needed to identify how the various sectors of our food system can work together to increase local food security.

A coordinated food systems plan led by key stakeholders across our food system can help connect the dots between local food producers, consumers, state institutional purchasing, and community anti-hunger efforts. This work is critical to identify and advance solutions to fix our reliance on imports and to create a sustainable and equitable food economy.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Maki Morinoue  
Hōlualoa

**SB-2414**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 8:18:44 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ezgi Green	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB2414. Too many families in Hawai'i are facing food insecurity, our farmers struggle to access affordable land and water, and climate change poses threats to our local food production. However, a more resilient food system can address these various challenges, but only if we take a coordinated approach.

We can meet our goals of increasing local food production while also diversifying our local economy. Because our food system is so broad and complex, a plan will be needed to identify how the various sectors of our food system can work together to increase local food security.

A coordinated food systems plan led by key stakeholders across our food system can help connect the dots between local food producers, consumers, state institutional purchasing, and community anti-hunger efforts. This work is critical to identify and advance solutions to fix our reliance on imports and to create a sustainable and equitable food economy.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Me ke aloha pumehana,

Ezgi Green, Waialua

**SB-2414**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 10:11:02 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Regina Gregory	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

A coordinated approach to food independence is important.

**SB-2414**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 8:22:49 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Susan Stayton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee,

I am writing as a small Family farmer asking that you please support SB2414. Too many families in Hawai'i are facing food insecurity, our farmers struggle to access affordable land and water, and climate change poses threats to our local food production. However, a more resilient food system can address these various challenges but only if we take a coordinated approach.

We can meet our goals of increasing local food production while also diversifying our local economy. Because our food system is so broad and complex, a plan will be needed to identify how the various sectors of our food system can work together to increase local food security.

A coordinated food systems plan led by key stakeholders across our food system can help connect the dots between local food producers, consumers, state institutional purchasing and community anti-hunger efforts. This work is critical to identify and advance solutions to fix our reliance on imports and to create a sustainable and equitable food economy.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Susan Stayton, Lawai, Kauai, HI

**SB-2414**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 10:28:57 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrea Irely	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: Chair and Members of the Committee on Agriculture From: Andrea Irely Date: 1/31/24 Re:

Bill number SB2414

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for the bill that establishes the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group within the Department of Agriculture. This bill will help Hawaii achieve a more robust, sustainable, equitable and resilient food system that benefits the health, economy and environment of our state.

I believe that this bill is timely and necessary to address the challenges and opportunities that our food system faces in the context of climate change, global competition, food insecurity and public health. [Hawaii imports about 85% of its food, making it vulnerable to disruptions in supply chains, price fluctuations and natural disasters](#)<sup>1</sup>. [At the same time, Hawaii has abundant natural resources, cultural diversity and innovative potential to produce more of its own food, support local farmers and food businesses, and enhance food access and affordability for all residents](#)<sup>2</sup>.

[The Sustainable Food Systems Working Group will bring together key stakeholders from various sectors, including agriculture, business, education, health, environment and community, to develop a comprehensive and integrated food policy framework and a food system resilience and equity strategy for Hawaii](#)<sup>3</sup>. [These documents will provide a vision, goals, objectives, indicators and actions to guide the state's efforts to transform its food system in alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the Aloha+ Challenge](#)<sup>4</sup>. The working group will also conduct research, analysis and outreach to inform its recommendations and solicit input from the public.

The bill also declares that the general fund expenditure ceiling is exceeded by the amount necessary to fund the working group, establishes an unspecified number of positions within the Department of Agriculture to support the working group, and makes an appropriation for fiscal year 2024-2025. These provisions will ensure that the working group has adequate resources and staff to carry out its duties and produce a high-quality report to the Legislature before the regular session of 2025.

I urge you to pass this bill and support the creation of the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group. This bill will advance Hawaii's food system transformation and contribute to a more prosperous, healthy and resilient future for our state.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely, Andrea Irey

[1: Hawaii Food Self-Sufficiency Baseline Study](#) [2: Transforming Hawai'i's Food System Together](#) [3: CTAHR Food Systems Initiative – GET Local](#) [4: About - Transforming Food Systems](#)

**SB-2414**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 11:38:22 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Julia Marrack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB2414. Too many families in Hawai‘i are facing food insecurity, our farmers struggle to access affordable land and water, and climate change poses threats to our local food production. However, a more resilient food system can address these various challenges but only if we take a coordinated approach.

We can meet our goals of increasing local food production while also diversifying our local economy. Because our food system is so broad and complex, a plan will be needed to identify how the various sectors of our food system can work together to increase local food security.

A coordinated food systems plan led by key stakeholders across our food system can help connect the dots between local food producers, consumers, state institutional purchasing and community anti-hunger efforts. This work is critical to identify and advance solutions to fix our reliance on imports and to create a sustainable and equitable food economy.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Julie Marrack, Kamuela, HI

**SB-2414**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 12:02:53 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Morgan Dobbins	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee,

I'm writing in strong support of HB2414. An integrated and interagency approach is necessary for the State to address the growing issues of food insecurity and the direct impact food consumption and farming have on the state and wider world's environment. I live on Kaua'i and I know that this island is one of the most abundant places on this earth, has the power to feed itself fully and even export food to provide financial support for so many here. Hanalei itself produces 60% of all the kalo for the entire state.

Creating a working group to identify the kinks in the system that are leading to continued reliance on importing food, the massive pounds of food waste I have personally witnessed, and any impediments to small local farmers being able to process and produce value-added items is a major step towards a more resilient food economy.

A coordinated food systems plan led by key stakeholders across our food system can help connect the dots between local food producers, consumers, state institutional purchasing and community anti-hunger efforts.

Mahalo for your consideration and for your service to your community and our state. I look forward to a more integrated and sustainable Hawai'i Food System.

Morgan Dobbins, Kapa'a, Kaua'i

**SB-2414**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 2:36:33 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Melissa Barker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to respectfully ask that you support SB2414. A more resilient food system would address food insecurity challenges faced in Hawaii.

A coordinated food systems plan led by key stakeholders across our food system can help connect the dots between local food producers, consumers, state institutional purchasing and community anti-hunger efforts. This work is critical to identify and advance solutions to fix our reliance on imports and to create a sustainable and equitable food economy.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Melissa Barker

Kapaa, HI

**SB-2414**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 11:44:10 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Irena Bliss	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB2414. Too many families in Hawai'i are facing food insecurity, our farmers struggle to access affordable land and water, and climate change poses threats to our local food production. However, a more resilient food system can address these various challenges but only if we take a coordinated approach.

We can meet our goals of increasing local food production while also diversifying our local economy. Because our food system is so broad and complex, a plan will be needed to identify how the various sectors of our food system can work together to increase local food security. It is also vital to restore the wisdom of the Hawaiian ahupua'a system that demonstrated island sustainability, self-sufficiency, and well-being.

A coordinated food systems plan led by key stakeholders across our food system can help connect the dots between local food producers, consumers, state institutional purchasing and community anti-hunger efforts. This work is critical to identify and advance solutions to fix our reliance on imports and to create a sustainable and equitable food economy.

It is time to restore ways of living that will support the sustainable well-being and thriving of all future generations on island.

Mahalo piha for your consideration!

Me ke aloha,

Irena Bliss  
Ha'ikū, Maui 96708

**SB-2414**

Submitted on: 2/1/2024 6:53:28 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Haweokaimanaikekai Arnold	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**My name is Haweo, I'm a senior at Mililani High School. I support the SB2414 act. I enjoy eating sustainably and organic because I know that it is grown from our land in the healthiest way possible. When it comes to the school lunch, I never eat it. I don't know a lot about the school lunches, but what I do know is that I don't know where it comes from and 98% of it is imported. The foods that we eat are so important when it affects our body, our day-to-day life, and our future. This is food that feeds hundreds of kids of all ages. All children deserve to be given the best. You can help us make these changes. If we can change our current school food system to Farm to School, it would help our community tremendously. Local grown lunches would help combat these carbon emissions and benefit the longevity of our children. Passing a bill so that our school lunches come from sustainable, organic grown farms would bring a huge positive impact on everyone. If I knew that our lunches came from local farmers, I wouldn't hesitate to eat it.**

Sincerely,

Haweo

**SB-2414**

Submitted on: 2/1/2024 10:38:03 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kieran Florino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a high school student at Mililani High School, I observe the students who grab lunch everyday. I see plates that are almost full and untouched when being thrown away in the trash because the food is "unappetizing". I understand and give credits to the lunch workers for making lunch to feed about 2,600 students, but using imported foods from the mainland is not supporting the local farmers in Hawaii. Its saddening to know that schools are buying GMO cornseed from Monsanto that were sued because they were spraying a cancer causing pesticide on their plants. The government buys cornseed from a company that spreads CANCER CAUSING PESTICIDES on their plants. Let that sink in. Its cheaper to ship it from the mainland because of the land resources they have, but we are an island, we have such limited resources. If we go on lockdown for shipping, we only have food to last us about 3-10 days; by purchasing products from local farmers, it is more sustainable and we would have access to fresher foods. By buying from local farmers, produce would be more fresh and provide more nutrients to students. As someone who doesn't eat the school lunch because the portions are too small, and it just isn't appetizing to me, I would eat the lunch if the school and government provided more local foods for me to eat. Others may argue that local food is too expensive which is understandable because farmers are a small business, but we could find other ways to make produce and foods not as expensive. At Mililani High School, we have an agricultural area where we can plant produce and its right on our campus where it is accessible to the chefs and cooks. An idea to support local farmers but not have it as expensive is maybe collaborate with them, contribute with them. Have students from different schools go a few times a month to help around the farm, possibly plant new seeds, help with crop work, harvest some plants, etc. By doing these actions the produce could possibly be a little cheaper, and to pay back these local farmers so they can grow more foods, the government and schools can give them part of the profit made from school lunches so they can continue to grow more crops. This has been an ongoing problem for years now, and the government needs to do something about it. Making Hawaii for sustainable is essential for future generations and our land.

**SB-2414**

Submitted on: 2/1/2024 11:50:05 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jessica Kuzmier	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB2414. Too many families in Hawai‘i are facing food insecurity, our farmers struggle to access affordable land and water, and climate change poses threats to our local food production. However, a more resilient food system can address these various challenges but only if we take a coordinated approach.

We can meet our goals of increasing local food production while also diversifying our local economy. Because our food system is so broad and complex, a plan will be needed to identify how the various sectors of our food system can work together to increase local food security.

A coordinated food systems plan led by key stakeholders across our food system can help connect the dots between local food producers, consumers, state institutional purchasing and community anti-hunger efforts. This work is critical to identify and advance solutions to fix our reliance on imports and to create a sustainable and equitable food economy.

Mahalo for your consideration!

**SB-2414**

Submitted on: 2/1/2024 12:58:23 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Virginia Tincher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB2414. Too many families in Hawai'i are facing food insecurity, our farmers struggle to access affordable land and water, and climate change poses threats to our local food production. However, a more resilient food system can address these various challenges but only if we take a coordinated approach.

We can meet our goals of increasing local food production while also diversifying our local economy. Because our food system is so broad and complex, a plan will be needed to identify how the various sectors of our food system can work together to increase local food security.

A coordinated food systems plan led by key stakeholders across our food system can help connect the dots between local food producers, consumers, state institutional purchasing and community anti-hunger efforts. This work is critical to identify and advance solutions to fix our reliance on imports and to create a sustainable and equitable food economy.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Virginia Tincher

Honolulu

02/01/2024

To: Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Subject: **SB2414**: Establishing the Sustainable Food System Working Group

Aloha,

I strongly **support SB2414**: to establish the Sustainable Food System Working Group. The proposed legislation stands to bring multifaceted benefits to the State of Hawaii by establishing a Sustainable Food Systems Working Group within the Department of Agriculture.

This legislative initiative is poised to create a positive impact on the environmental, economic, and social well-being of the community. The primary objective is to develop an interagency food systems plan that aligns with the United Nations sustainable development goals, thereby promoting a more resilient and sustainable local food economy. Emphasizing the integration of "green" job creation and sustainable economic development, the legislation foresees the potential for job growth in environmentally friendly sectors, contributing to a more robust and diverse workforce. Furthermore, the focus on land stewardship underscores the significance of responsible land use practices in the pursuit of sustainable agriculture. Addressing the crucial issue of food security, the legislation aims to bolster the state's self-reliance and resilience by fostering a local food economy capable of meeting the population's needs. The legislation also recognizes the pivotal role of environmental protection and climate change resilience in shaping a sustainable food system. By fostering collaboration among various stakeholders, including government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and community members, the legislation promotes a holistic and comprehensive approach to tackling the challenges associated with the current food system. The requirement for a detailed report to the legislature before the regular session of 2025 ensures transparency and accountability in the implementation of the sustainable food systems plan. Additionally, the appropriation of funds for positions within the Department of Agriculture and the operation of the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group reflects a tangible financial commitment to realizing the outlined goals. In essence, this legislation signifies a dedicated effort by Hawaii to cultivate a more sustainable, resilient, and locally focused food system that aligns with global sustainability objectives while addressing the unique needs of the state.

Mahalo nui loa,

Kawika Kahiapo

**SB-2414**

Submitted on: 2/1/2024 5:58:40 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
erica fox Roberts	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

February 2, 2024

1:00PM, Conference room 224

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for S.B. No. 2414

Aloha, Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means,

My name is Erica Fox Roberts and I am a 12 grader at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of S.B.No. 2414,

In class we have been learning about food waste reduction by composting. This taught me how crucial it is to recycle our foods because I learned how we have so much food waste yet food insecurity at the same time. The bill notes that it is to create resiliency with community health and well being. With this being said it is wrong for our biggest crop to be genetically modified corn which does not benefit our community's health. Locally supporting nearby farmers and reducing the environmental impact of long-distance food transportation is how we can have a sustainable food system. As an upcoming adult I worry what life will be like in many years if we

do not start building a sustainable food system now, and what me and my family will eat if there is an unexpected disaster that could delay our transported food from getting here.

I hope you will consider passing S.B. No. 2414 because it is a comprehensive piece of legislation that has the potential to bring about positive and lasting change in our food system. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Erica Fox Roberts

Mililani High School

Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on ways and means

Friday, February 2, 2024  
1:00PM, Conference room 224  
Hawaii State Capitol

Support for S.B. No. 2414

Aloha, Chair Woodson and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,  
My name is Travis Young and I am a 12th grader (or Freshman, Sophomore, etc.) at  
Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of S.B.No. 2414,

Your personal testimony here, patterns in history have shown that during lockdown,  
crises, or stopped or delayed shipments have proven that it's detrimentally thrown communities  
into disarray causing collapse of the economy or local systems.

I hope you will consider passing S.B. No. 2414 because I am concerned about how  
much money we are wasting money on bills that could be improved upon a large amount  
money isn't wasted due to loss of majority of money due, shipping non sustainable way that  
causes to be taken away economy and community, big foreign organizations. Mahalo for the  
opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Travis Young  
Mililani High School

**SB-2414**

Submitted on: 2/1/2024 8:27:12 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
TJ Sao	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee,

Please support HB2414. Too many families in Hawai‘i are facing food insecurity, our farmers struggle to access affordable land and water, and climate change poses threats to our local food production. However, a more resilient food system can address these various challenges but only if we take a coordinated approach.

We can meet our goals of increasing local food production while also diversifying our local economy. Because our food system is so broad and complex, a plan will be needed to identify how the various sectors of our food system can work together to increase local food security.

A coordinated food systems plan led by key stakeholders across our food system can help connect the dots between local food producers, consumers, state institutional purchasing and community anti-hunger efforts. This work is critical to identify and advance solutions to fix our reliance on imports and to create a sustainable and equitable food economy.

Mahalo for your consideration!

TJ Sao, Pearl City, HI 96782

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

**February 02, 2024**

**1:00 PM, Conference room 224**

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for S.B. No. 2414

Aloha, Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means,  
My name is Chase Botill and I am a Junior at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of S.B.No. 2414, which establishes the Sustainable Food Systems Working Group.

I support this bill because I see it as completely necessary for the local economy of Hawaii. With my volunteering experience with local farms and restoration sites. These sites, such as Mālama Pu'uloa and Loko Ea, I have seen how impactful it is to have a working and sustaining local food source. Not only has it benefited the people economically, but culturally too.

I hope you will consider passing S.B. No. 2414 because this bill will, for a short term loss and a long term gain, support the integrity of Hawaii's food security and its economy. It will do so by increasing local food production, keeping Hawaii's money in its economy, and by cutting down the costs of shipment for importing foodstuffs, to name a few. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Chase Botill  
Mililani High School

**LATE**

**SB-2414**

Submitted on: 2/2/2024 2:32:09 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Timothy Wiley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Timothy Wiley, and I am a student attending Leeward Community College at both their Pu'uloa and Wai'anae Moku campus locations. My time in community college has allowed me to observe the need for reform in our state's food system, witnessing the effect our current production of agriculture has on local communities. From my attendance at the Wai'anae Moku campus, I have observed a significantly higher reliance on the dependency of our school's food bank in this location compared to the Pearl City Pu'uloa campus. Speaking with my peers in community college, they all have stories of their need for food assistance to keep up with the state's high cost of living. Alternatively, they dream of the state becoming self-sufficient through growing their food, decreasing the need for imported foods, and supporting themselves economically and socially. As an environmental justice advocate, I have come to learn how the health of the A'ina is interconnected with the health of our food system and, therefore, our people. Through the passage of SB 2414, addressing the various factors involved in creating a healthy food system that benefits our land and, therefore, people, will bring life to my community of the Wai'anae coast. To benefit the people of Hawai'i and my community in Wai'anae, I strongly urge the passage of SB 2414.

Mahalo,  
Timothy Wiley